

INDO-CHINA

Music is the companion of the theatre, It Is during and **between** the acts. Singing is the medium for the dreamy and sentimental Khmer soul.

The form is less and their composition not confined to professional **output**. Though the love theme is monotonous, the improvisations are **and beloved** by all classes of the Khmers. Anonymous* like all Khmer art, it announces melodiously the futility of all achievement.

Unfortunately the Khmers listen with such reverence and melting to what has been composed **many** years ago, that they prefer to the old repertoire of about twenty-eight pieces, rather than to afresh their own.

from art forms connected with the theatre and **architectural** ornamentation, Khmer culture is mediocre and in no way comparable to the Siamese, which has fundamentally the same inspiration.

ECONOMY

The Mekong dominates Cambodian **economy**. It absorbs all tributaries is changing its banks, thereby displacing houses and

Yet the Khmer htoniity before its whims is based on great riwr's essential **benevolence**, for every year it leaves a billion of fertile **soil**. **The Mekong** is on its test behaviour in not impossibly torrential, as where it flows through The is the second **most** important physical factor

ia the country. The wooded **mountains form** an impenetrable If Cambodia geographical protection it is that **the** of **seaports**, which they now cut off>

the country's decline, They cut off human as as have contributed to an ingrown **localism**. resources, which the French are

trying to
by
woods
yet of be ait before there is any
in the of the forest On beiags is another
of its Even its **is portentous:** there is
fife, *n **tad** **activity.** Hordes of ants on
or Its by —efieiywhorc a
no* is does
its to **of day.** Beside **its**
vitality,